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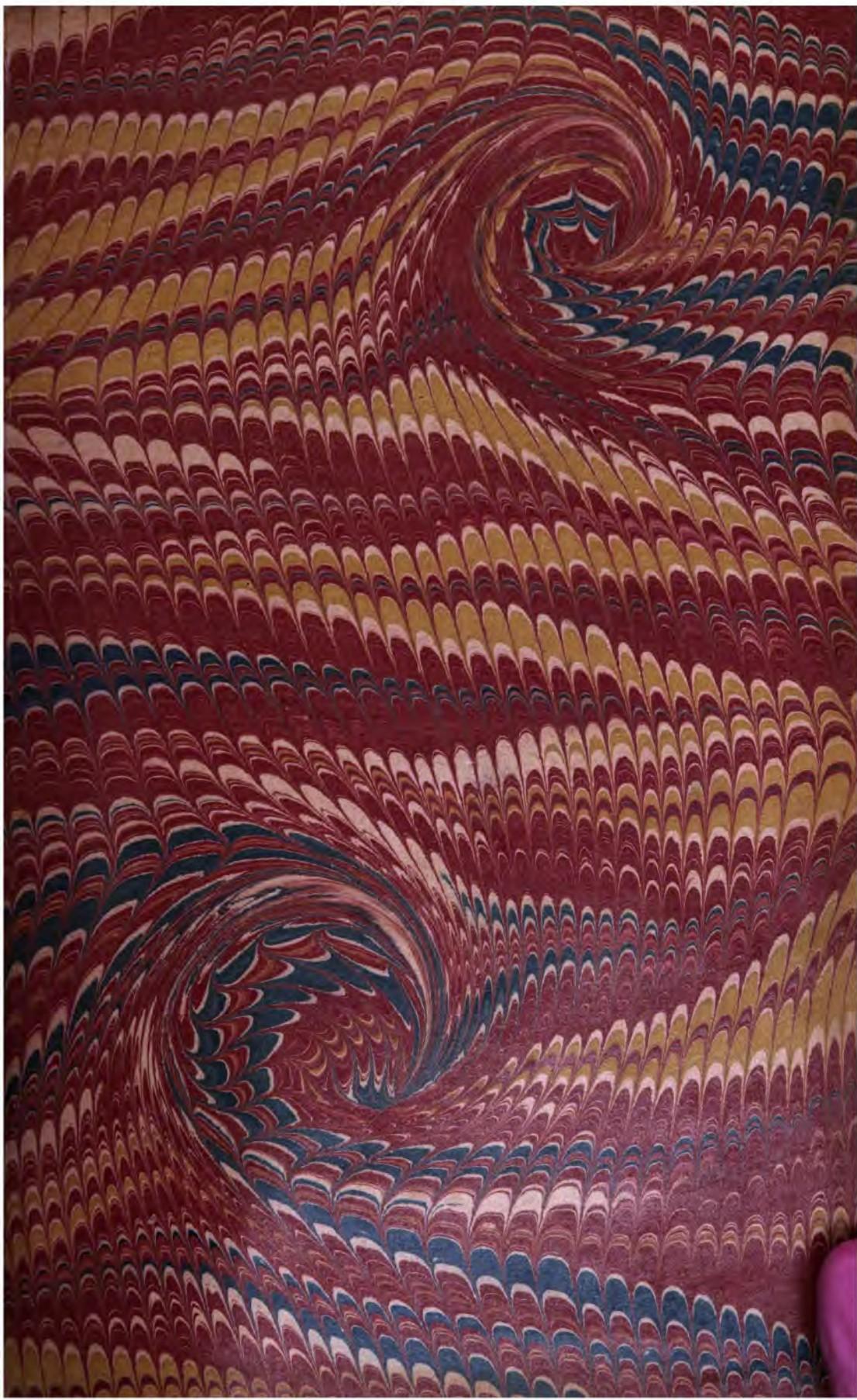
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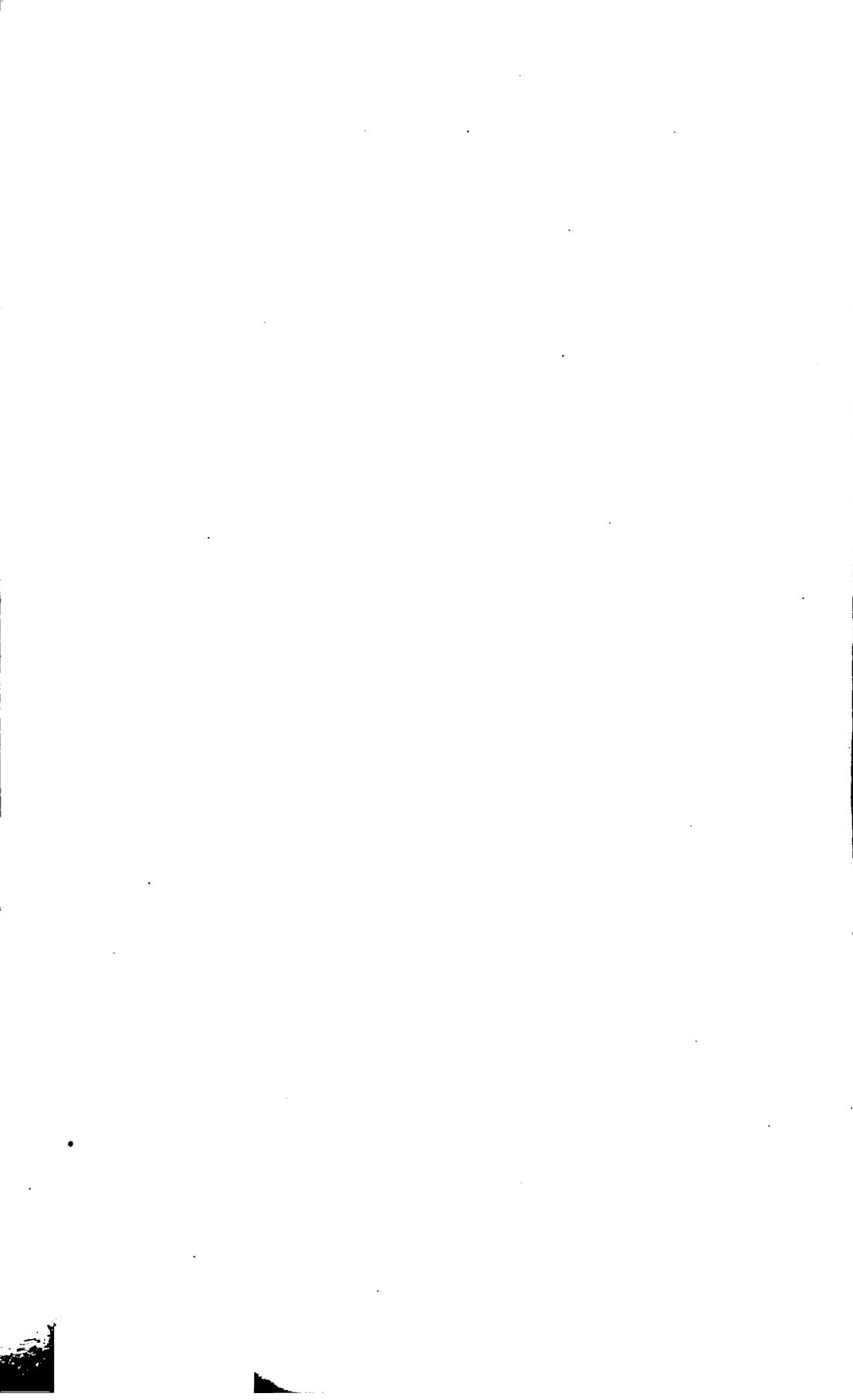
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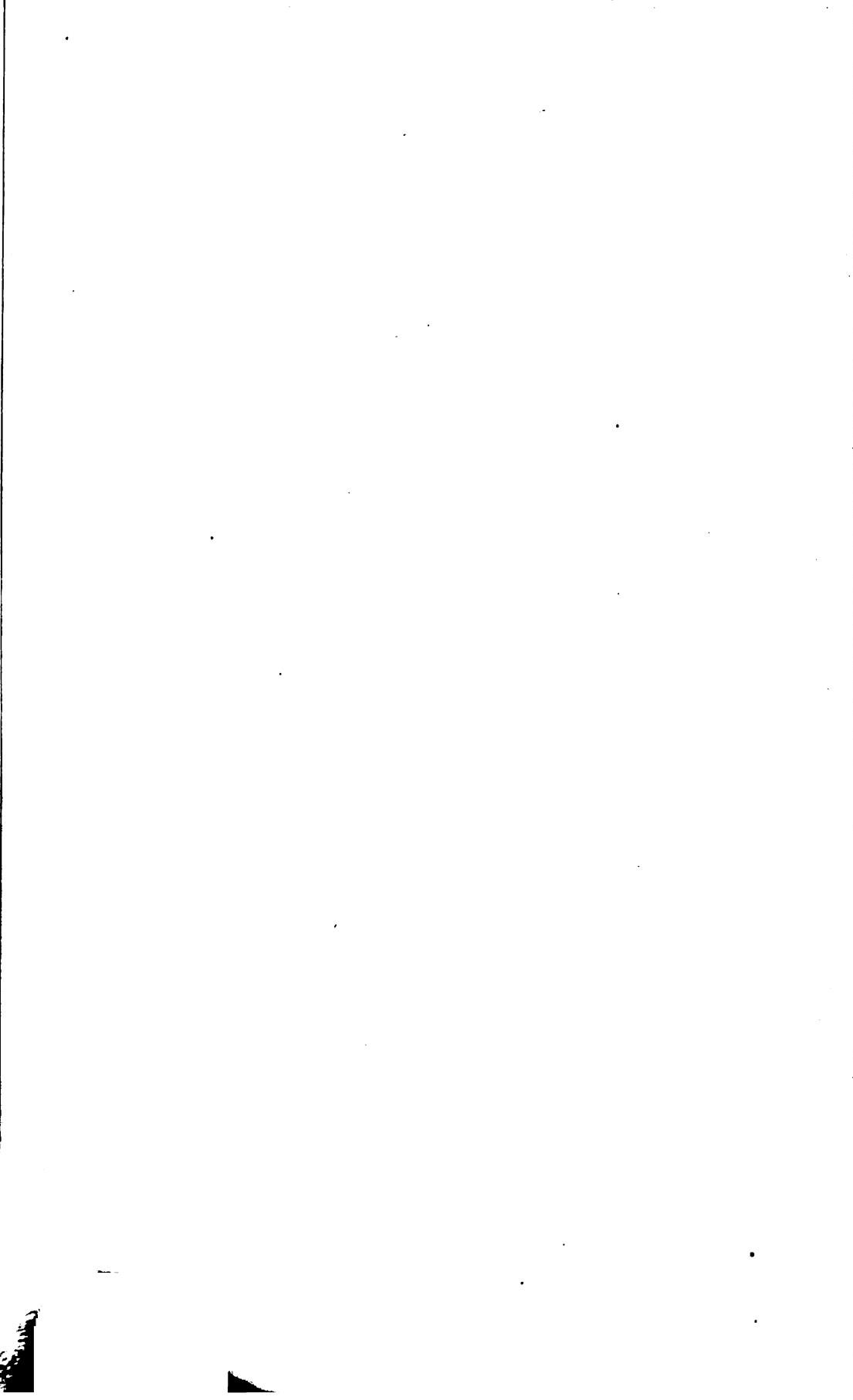


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I Godwin Johnson
Montgomery
from The Nathan
1856





Norwich Pageants.

THE
GROCERS' PLAY.

From a Manuscript

IN POSSESSION OF

ROBERT FITCH, ESQ., F.G.S.

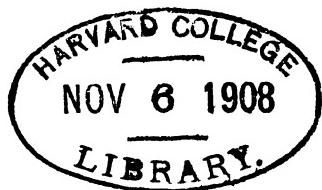
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Norwich Pageants.

THE GROCERS' PLAY.

COMMUNICATED BY ROBERT FITCH, ESQ., F.G.S.

Of the Pageants or Mysteries which formed so important a feature in the amusements of the people in the middle ages, a former paper (Vol. III., p. 3) has given all the information now to be obtained from the Norwich Corporation Records.

Although the books of the several Companies (except that of St. George) in which were the accounts relating to the Pageants, have long ago been destroyed or lost, some additional information has come to light on the subject, of considerable interest. It consists of a series of extracts, made early in the last century, from the Grocers' Book, showing the proceedings and expenditure of the Company about their Pageant, from 1534 to 1570; and also the version of the Play in use in 1533, and the revised and corrected version played in 1563.

The previous paper contains a list of the Pageants played by the several Companies early in the sixteenth century, from the Corporation Records; and as in that paper an idea is afforded of the nature of these performances, by reference to the existing accounts of those of Chester, Coventry, and other places, and the Collection known as the "Townley Mysteries," it will be unnecessary to do more than point out how very strikingly all these Plays resemble each other.

On turning to the list referred to, it will be seen that the third Pageant, the second on the list, was "Paradyse," and was set forth by the Grocers and Raffmen. It is this Pageant to which the following extracts relate.

It will be seen by the accounts, that the carriage in which the play was acted, also termed a "Pageant," was "a Howse of Waynscott paynted & buylded on a Cart with fowre whelys;" painted cloths were hung about it, and it was drawn by four horses having "headstallis of brode Inkle with knopps & tassells." It had a square top with a large vane in the midst, and one for the end, and a large number of smaller ones. The Company was evidently unable to afford the cost of four horses in 1534: only one was hired, and four men attended on the pageant with "Lewers."

Among the properties will be observed a prominent one, a "Rybbe colored Redde." Another was a "Gryffon," painted and gilt, in which perfumes were burnt, borne by a lad. The tree too was there, and garnished with apples. The man who played "God the Father" had a mask and wig. The "Serpent" was attired in a "cote with hosen & tayle stayned," and a crown and wig. Eve had "two cotes & a payr hosen stayned;" and Adam, "a cote and hosen stayned." This seems to settle the vexed question about the mode of representing our first parents on these occasions.

The play of 1533 is not stated to be then newly made, and may be merely a copy of a much older one. It begins much in the same manner as the Coventry Play, with God the Father relating the planting of the garden, the creation of man and placing him there, and God's intention to create woman.

It is very much shorter than the Chester and Coventry versions,* and the manuscript is deficient from the call to Adam after the temptation, until Adam and Eve are thrust

* The Townley Manuscript is deficient from the speech of Lucifer, when he expresses his determination to tempt Eve, to the end of this play.

from Paradise. The versification of the rest of the scene appears much more modern than that of the former part. Was this portion the "newe ballet," made by Sir Stephen Prowett, for which he was paid 12*d.* in May, 1534? (See accounts.)

The second version of the play "begone this yere 1565," "newly renvid & accordynge unto the Skrypture," is considerably longer than the other, and contains additions of some interest. The "Prolocutor" states that these Pageants set forth in "Wittson dayes," "lately befallen into decayes," and his introduction somewhat resembles the "Banes" of the Chester Plays. New characters are introduced—Dolor and Misery, the former having a "cote & hosen w^t a bagge & cap stayned," but the latter it is supposed required none, at any rate none were provided by the Company. Neither does any attire seem to be provided for the Holy Ghost, who enters at the last to comfort man, and by a curious anachronism talks to Adam of the Gospel, of Christ Jhesu, and Saint Paul. There is another curious one in the commencement, where God the Father opens by stating he is Alpha and Omega, as his apocalypse testifies.

The popularity of these Pageants, however, was gone, and our extracts conclude with a memorandum of the gradual decay of the Pageant-house, and its final destruction about the year 1570.

On the good taste or propriety of these entertainments any observation is needless: they formed a very remarkable feature in the life of the middle ages; and to all who desire to study the manners of our ancestors in those times, they cannot fail to afford a fund of information of a very important nature.

G R O C E R S' B O O K ,

Folio 1.

In dei nomine Amen. The xvi day of June in the xxvth yere of y^e reygne of ow^r Sovereygne Lorde Kynge Henry the viijth and in y^e yere of ow^r Lorde God mccccxxxij this booke was made by the hands of John Homerson & Robt. Reynbald, than beyng Wardeyns of y^e Crafte of Grocers crafte w^tin y^e Cyte of Norwyche, the whiche boke makyth mençon of y^e Story of y^e Creaçon of Eve w^t y^e expellyng of Adam & Eve oute of Paradyce, the whiche story apparteynthe to y^e Pageant of y^e Company of y^e foresayd craft of Grocery, wherefor thys sayd Booke ys made for the sustentaçon and maynteñns of y^e same, declarynge & showyng y^e name of y^e Pageant, w^t all the Utensyfis & necessaryes thereto belongynge, all the pcells & charges yerely occupied to y^e same, and also all y^e names of suche men as be Inrollyd in y^e sayd craft of Grocery w^tin ye foresayd Cyte of Norwiche, &c.

The Story of y^e Creaçon of Eve, w^t y^e expellyng of Adam & Eve out of Paradyce.

Pater. Ego principiū Alpha & ω in altissimis habitō,
 In y^e hevenly Empery I am resydent,
 Yt ys not semely for man, *sine adjutorio*,
 to be allone, nor very convenient,
 I have plantyd an Orcheyard most congruent,
 for hym to kepe & to tylle, by contemplaçon
 let us make an adjutory of our formaçon,
 to hys symylatitude, lyke in plasmaçon,*
 In to Paradyce I wyll nowe descende,
 w^t my mynsters angelicall of our creaçon,
 to assyst us in ow^r worke y^t we Intende,
 A slepe in to man be soporaçon to sende,

* From *Plasmator*—creator.

a ribbe out of manys syde I do here take,
 bothe flesche & bone I do thys creatur blysse,
 And a woman I fourme, to be his make,
 Semblable* to man ; beholde here she ys.

Adam. O my Lorde god Incomprehensyble, withoute mysse
 ys thy hyghe excellent magnyfysens,
 thys creature to me ys *nu'c ex ossibus meis*,
 and *virago* I call hyr in thy presens ; †
 lyke on to me in naturall preemynens,
 laude, honor, and Glory, to the ‡ I make,
 bothe father and mother, man shall for hyr forsake.

Pater. Than my Gardēn of Plesure kepe thou suer,
 of all fruts & trees shall thou ete & fede,
 except thys tre of connyngh, § whyle ye bothe indure,
 ye shall not touche yt, for that I forbede.

Adam. Thy precept lorde, in will, worde, and dede,

* Like.

† Adam's speech in the Chester Play runs as follows :

I see well, Lord, through thy grace,
 Bone of my bones thou here mase,
 And flesh of my flesh she hase,
 And my shape through thy sawe :
 Wherefor she shall be called, I wysse,
Virago nothing amisse ;
 For out of man taken she is,
 And to man shall she drawe.

And in the *Cursor Mundi*, MS. Cott. Vesp. A. III., folio 5.

Quen sco was broght befor Adam,
Virago gaf he hir to nam :
 Tharfor hight sco *virago*,
 For maked o the man was sco.

‡ *Thee.* Throughout these plays *thee* and *tree* are invariably spelt with a single *e*.

§ But towch nowth this tre that is of cunnyng,

* * * * *

Eat not this frute, ne me despese,
 For than thou deyst, thou spakyst nowth.

Chester Play.

shall I observe, and thy request fulfull,
as thou hast comandyd, yt ys reason & skyll.

Pater. Thys tre ys callyd of connyngh good & yll,
that day that ye ete therof shall ye dye.
morte moriemini, yf that I do you aspye,
showe thys to thy spowse, now by and bye,
I shall me absent for a time and space,
a warned man may lyve who can it denye.
I make the Lord therof, kepe wyll my place,
if thou do thys, thou shall have my grace,
In to mortalite, shall thou ellē falle,
looke thow be obedyent, whan I the calle.

Adam. Omnipotent god, and hygñ Lord of all,
I am thy servante, bownde onder thyn obedyens,
and thou my creatour, one god eternall,
what thou comandest, I shall do my dylygens.

Pater. Here I leve the, to have experyens,
to use thys place, in vertuse occupaçon,
for nowe I wyll retorne to myn habitaçon.

Adam. O lovely spowse of Godē creaçon,
I leve the here alone, I shall not tary longe,
for I wyll walke a whyle, for my recreaçon,
and se over Paradyce, that ys so stronge,
no thyng may hurt us, nor do us wronge;
God ys ow^r ptector^r, & soverayñ guyde,
In thys place nō^{*} yll thyng may abyde.

Serpens. O gemme of felycyte, and femynyne love,
why hathe God und^r precept, phybyte † thys frute,
that ye shuld not ete therof, to yo^r behoſe,
thys tre ys plesant w^touten refute.

Eva. *Ne forte* we shuld dye, & than be mortall,
we may not towche yt, by Godē comandement.

Serpens. *Ne quaquām*, ye shall not dye perpetuall,
but ye shuld be as Godē resydent,

* None.

† Prohibit.

knowyng good & yll spyrytuall,
no thyng can dere you y^t ys carnall.

Eva. For us than now what hold you best,
that we do not owr God offende.

Serpens. Eate of thys apple at my requeste,
to the,* Almyghty God dyd me sende.

Eva. Nowe wyll I take therof & I entend,
to plese my spowse, therof to fede,
to know good & yll for owr mede.

Adam. I have walkyd abought for my solace,
my spowse how do you, tell me.

Eva. An Angell cam from God^c grace,
and gaffe me an Apple of thys tre,
part therof I geffe to the,
Eate therof for thy pleasure,
for thys frute ys god^c own treasure.

Pater. Adam, Adam, wher art thou thys tyde,
before my presens, why dost thou not appere.

[desunt multa.]

Musick.

*Aftyr that Adam & Eve be drevyn out of Paradyse, they
schall speke thys foloyng :*

Adam. O w^t dolorows sorowe, we may wayle & weepe,
Alas, Alas, whye ware we soo bolde ;
bye owr fowle presumpsyon, we ar cast full depe,
fro pleasur to payn, w^t carys manye fold.

Eve. w^t wonderows woo, Alas, it cane not be told,
Fro paradyse to ponyschment, & bondage full strong.
O wretchys that we are, so eñ we xall † be Inrollyd,
therfor owr hande we may wrynge w^t most dullfull song.‡

* To thee.

† Shall.

‡ In the Chester Play, Eve takes the lead in lamentations and self-reproach, and is rebuked by Adam, who stops her with,

" Wyff thi witt is not worth a rosch ; "

and proceeds to discourse on their new duties in a more dignified style than the opening promises.

*And so y^e xall syng, walkyng together abowt the place,
wryngynge ther hands.*

wythe dolorous sorowe, we maye wayle & wepe bothe,
nyght & daye in sory, sythys full depe.

*N.B.—These last 2 lines set to musick twice over and
again, for a chorus of 4 pts.*

A N O T H E R V E R S I O N

In the same Book, folio 6.

The Storye of y^e Temptaçon of man in Paradyce, beyng
therin placyd, & y^e expellynge of man & woman from thence,
newely renvid * & accordynge unto y^e Skrypture, begon thys
yere A° 1565, A° 7 Eliz.

Item. Yt ys to be notyd y^t when y^e Grocers Pageant is
played w^t owte eny other goenge befor yt, then doth the
Prolocutor say in y^s wise.

Lyke as yt chancyd before this season,
owte of God^c scripture, reuealed in playes,
was dyvers stories sett furth by reason
of Pageants apparelyd in Wittson dayes,
and lately be fallen into decayes.
which stories dependyd in theyr orders sett,
by severall devyces, much knowledge to gett.

Begynnnyng in Genesis, that Story replete,
Of God his creacion, of eche lyvynge thynge,
of Heaven, & of erth, of Fysh, smalle & greate,
of Fowles, herbe, & tre, & of all best^c crepynge,
of angel, of man, w^{ch} of erth hath beyng,
& of y^e fall of Angell, in ye Apocalyps to se,
w^{ch} stories wth the Skcriptures, most justly agree.

* Renewed?

Then followed this ow^r pageant, w^{ch} sheweth to be,
y^e Garden of Eden, w^{ch} God dyd plante,
as yn y^e seconde Chapter of Genesis ye se,
wherin of frutes pleasant, no kynde therof shulde wante;
in w^{ch} God dyd putt man, to cherish tre, & [him] taute,
to dresse & kepe y^e grownde, & eate what frute hym lyste,
except y^e tre of knowledge, God^c high wytt to resyste.

The Story sheweth further, that after man was blyste,
the Lord did create woman, owte of a Ribbe of man,
w^{ch} woman was deceyvyd, with y^e Serpent^c darkned myste,
by whose Synn ow^r nature, is so weake, no good we can;
wherfor they were dejectyd, & caste from thence than,
unto dolloure, & myseri, & to traveyle & Payne,
untyll God^c spright renvid, & so we ende certayne.

*Note, that yf ther goeth eny other Pageant^c before yt,
y^e Prolocutor sayeth as ys on y^e other syde & leaveth owte
this.*

The Prolocutor.

As in theyr former Pageant^c, is semblably declared,
of God^c mighty crea^con, in every lyvynge thynge,
as in y^e fyrst of Genesis, to such it is ppared,
as lust they have to reade, to memory to bryng,
of Pride, & fawle of Angells, that in Hell hathe beinge;
in y^e seconde of Genesis, of mankynde hys creacion,
unto this Garden Eden, is made full preparacion.

And here begynneth ow^r Pageant, to make y^e declaracion,
from ye Letter C* in y^e chapter before saide,

* This would seem to indicate a rather earlier period to the composition of this version of the Play than the date at the head of it. In 1557, an English New Testament had been printed at Geneva distinguishing the verses by numeral figures; and from 1560, when the Geneva Bible was printed with the same arrangement, it became universal.

Howe God putt man in Paradyse, to dresse yt in best fassion,
 and that no frute therof, from hym shuld be denayed,
 butt of y^e tre of Lyffe, y^t man shuld be afraide,
 to eate of, least that daye, he eate y^t he shuld dye,
 & of womans creacion, apperinge by & bye.

And of y^e Deavills temptacion, discouvinge w^t a lye,
 the woman beinge weakest, y^t cawsed man to tast,
 that [he] God dyd so offendre, that even contynentlye,
 owte of y^e place of Joye, was man & woman cast,
 and into so great dolloure & misery browght at last,
 butt that by God his spright, was comforted ageyne,
 this is, of this ow^r pagent, y^e some & effect playne.

God y^e father.

I am Alpha et homega, my Apocalyps doth testyfye,
 that made all of nothinge, for man his sustentacion,
 and of this pleasante Garden, y^t I have plante most goodlye,
 I wyll hym make y^e Dresser, for his good recreacion,
 therfor man I gyve yt the, to have thy delectacion,
 in eatyng thou shalt eate, of every growenge tre,
 excepte y^e tre of knowledge, y^e which I forbydd the ;
 For in what daye soever, thou eaten thou shallt be,
 even as the childe of Death, take hede, & thus I saye,
 I wyll the make an helper, to conforte the alwaye,
 Beholde therfore a slepe, I bryng this daye on the,
 & owte of this thy Ribbe, that here I do owte take,
 a creature for thy help, behold I do the make,
 a ryse & from thy slepe, I wyll the nowe awake,
 & take hyr unto the, that yo^u both be as one,
 to comfort one thother, when from yo^u I am gone,
 & as I saide before, when y^t thou wert alone,
 in eatyng thow mayst eate, of every tre here is,
 butt of y^e tre of knowledge, of good & evyll, eate non,

lest that thou dye the deth,* by doenge so amysse.
 I wyll depte now wher, myn habitacion is,
 I leave you here * * * * *
 Se y^t ye have my wordes in most high estimacion.

then man & woman speke bothe.

We thank the, mighty God, & gyve the honoracion.

Man spekethe.

Oh bone of my bones, & flesh of my flesh eke,
 thou shalt be called woman, by caus thow art of me,
 oh gyfte of god most goodlye, y^t hast us made so lyke,
 most lovyng spowse I muche, do here rejoyce of the.

Woman.

And I lykewyse, swete lover, do much rejoyce of the,
 God therefore be praised, such comforde have us gyve,
 that ech of us w^t other, thus pleasantly do lyve.

Man.

To walke abowt this garden, my fantasye me meve, †
 I wyll the leave alone, tyll that I turne ageyne,
 farewell myn owne swete spouse, I leave y^e to remayne.

Woman.

And farewell, my dere lover, whom my Hart doth conteyn.

the Serpent spekethe.

Nowe, nowe, of my purpos, I dowght nott to attayne,
 I can yt nott abyde, in theis Joyes they shulde be,
 naye I wyll attempt them, to Syn unto theyr Payne,
 by subtylty to catch them, the waye I do well se;

* "Els in whatever daie so ever thou eateest therof thou shalt dye the death"—the words of the early translations of the Bible, some of which have a comment supporting the use of the term, it seems a stronger and bolder epithet than "thou shalt surely die," as in the authorized version.

† Move.

unto this Angell of Lyght, I shew mysylfe to be,
 with hyr for to dyscemble, I fear yt nott at all,
 butt that unto my haight, some waye I shall hyr call,
 Oh Lady of felicite, beholde my voice so small,
 why have God sayde to you, eate nott of every tre,
 that is within this Garden, therein now answerē me.

Woman.

We eate of all the Frutte, that in the Grownde we se,
 excepte that in the myddest, wherof we may nott taste,
 for God hath yt forbydd, therfor yt may nott be,
 lest that we dye y^e Deth, & from this place be caste.

the Serpent.

Ye shall not dye y^e Deth, he made you butt agaste,
 butt God doth know full well, y^t when you eate of yt,
 your eys shall then be openyd, & you shall at y^e last,
 as God^c both good & evyll, to knowe ye shall be fyt.

Woman.

To be as God^c indede, & in his place to sytt,
 therto for to agre, my lust conceyve somewhatt,
 besyd^c the tre is pleasante, to gett Wysedome, & wytt,
 and nothyng is to be, comparyd unto that.

the Serpent.

Then take at my request, & eate, & fere yt natt.

*Here she takyth & eatyth, & man cumyth in, & sayeth
 unto hyr :*

Man.

My Love, for my solace, I have here walkyd longe,
 howe ys yt nowe w^t you, I pray you do declare.

Woman.

In dede lovely lover, the Heavenly Kynge most stronge,
 to eate of this Apple, his Angell hath prepare,
 take therof at my hande, thother frutes amonge,
 for yt shall make you wyse, & even as God to fare.

Then man taketh & eatyth & sayethe :

Alack, Alacke, my Spouse, now se I nakid we ar,
the presence of ow^r God, we can yt nott abyde,
we have broke his precepte, he gave us of to care,
from God therfor in secrete, in some place lett us hide.

Woman.

w^t fygge leavis lett us cover us, of God we be nott spyede.

the father.

Adam, I saye Adam, wher art thou now this tyde,
that here, before my presence, thou dost nott now apere.

Adam.

I herde thy voyce, Oh Lorde, but yett I dyd me hide,
for that which I am naked, I more greatly dyd feare.

the father.

Why art thou then nakyd, who so hath cawsyd the.

Man.

This woman, Lord & God, which thou hast gyven to me.

the father.

Hast thou eat of y^e frute, y^t I forbyd yt the,
thow woman, why hast thou done, unto him thys trespace.

Woman.

The Serpente diseayvyd me, w^t that his fayer face.

the father.

Thow serpente, why dydst thou, this wise prevente my grace,
my creatures, & servant^r, in this maner to begyle.

the Serpente.

my kynde is so, thou knowest, & that in every case,
clene oute of this place, theis psons to excite.

the father.

Cursed art for causyng my comandement to defyle,
 above all cattell & beastē remayne thou in y^e fyldē,
 crepe on thy bely, & eate duste, for this thy subtyll wyle,
 the womans sede shall ovcōm the, thus y^t have I wylde;
 thou woman bryngyng chyldren, w^t Payne shall be dystylde,
 and be subiect to thy husbonde, & thy lust shall p̄tayne,
 to hym I hav determinyd, this ever to remayne,
 and to the, man, for y^t, my voyce thou didst disdayne,
 cursed is y^e erth, for ever, for thy sake,
 thy lyvynge shall thou gett, with swett, unto thy Payne,
 tyll thou departe unto the erth, I dyd the make,
 beholde theis letherin aprons,* unto y^rselves now take,
 Lo man as one of us hathe bene, good & evyll to knowe,
 therfor I wyll exempte hym, from this place to aslakē,
 lest of the tre of lyfe he eate, & ever growe,
 Myne Angell now cum furth, & kepe y^e waye & porte,
 unto y^e tre of lyfe, that they do nott resorte.

the Aungell.

Depart from hence, at onys, from this place of confortē,
 no more to have axcesse, or ells for to apere,
 from this place I exile you, that you no more resorte,
 nor even do presume, ageyne for to com here,

*Then man & woman dep'tyth to y^e nether p'te of y^e Pa-
 geant, & man sayeth :*

Alack, myn owne sweteharte, how am I stroke w^t fear,
 that from God am exiled, & brow^t to Payne & woo,
 Oh what have we lost, why dyd we no more care,
 and to what kynd of place, thatt we resort & goo.

* Unto the same Adam also, and to his wife, did the Lord make lethern garments, and clothed them. (*Grafton's Bible*, 1553, "according to the translation of the Great Bible.")

Woman.

Indede into y^e worlde, now must we to & fro,
and where or how to rest, I can nott saye at all,
I am even as ye ar, what so ever me be fall.

*Then cumeth DOLOR & MYSERYE & taketh man by both
armys & DOLOR sayeth :*

Cum furth o man, take hold of me,
through envy hast lost thy heavenly lyght,
by eatynge in bondage, from hence shall be,
now must thou me, Dolor, have always in sight.

Myserye.

And also of me, Myserye, thou must taste & byte,
of hardenes, & of colde, & eke of infirmitie,
accordinge to desarte, thy portion is of right,
to enioye that in me, that is withoute certentye.

Adam.

Thus troublyd, nowe I enter, into Dolor & Miserie,
nowe woman must we lerne, ow^r lyvyng^c to gett,
with labor, & with travell, ther is no remedye,
nor eny thyngh therfrom, we se that maye us lett.

*Then cumyth in y^e HOLY GHOST comforting man, &
sayeth :*

Be of good cheare man, & sorowe no more,
this Dolor & Miserie, that then thou hast taste,
is nott in respecte, layd up in store,
to y^e Joyes for the, that ever shalt last,
thy God doth not this, the away to cast,
But to try the, as Gold is tryed in y^e Fyer,
in the end premonyshed, shalt have thy desire,
take owte of the Gospell, y^t yt the requyre,
Fayth in Chryst Jhesu, & Grace thatt ensewe,
I wylbe thy Guyde, & pay the thy hyer,
for all thy good dylgence, & doenge thy dewe.

gyve eare unto me, man, & than yt ys trewe,
 thou shalt kyll affect^e, yt by lust in the reygne,
 and put Dolor & Mysery & envy to Payne,
 Theis armors ar preparyd, yf thou wylt turne ageyne,
 to fyght wyth, take to the, & reach woman the same,
 the Brest plate of Rightousnes, Saynte Paule wyl the retayne,
 the Shylde of Faythe to quench, thy fyrre darteres to tame,
 the hellmett of Salvacion, the devylls wrath shall lame,
 and y^e sworde of y^e Spright, w^{ch} is y^e worde of God,
 All theis ar nowe the offred, to ease thy Payne & Rodd.

Adam.

Oh prayse to the, most holye, y^t hast w^t me abode,
 in mysery premonyshynge, by this thy holy Spright,
 nowe fele I such great cōforte, my syns they be unlode,
 & layde on Chrystes back, w^{ch} is my Joye & lyght,
 this Dolor, & this mysery, I fele to me no wight,
 no, Deth is overcū, by fore predestinacion,
 and we attayned wyth Chryst, in heavenly consolacion,
 therfor, myne owne swett spous, w^touten cavylacion,
 together lett us syng, & lett o^r harte reioyse,
 & gloryfye o^w God, wyth mynde, powre, & voyse,

Amen.

Old musick Triplex, Tenor, Medius, Bass.

With hart & voyce, let us reioyce, & prayse the Lord al-
 waye, for this o^r Joyfull daye, to se of this o^r god his maiestie,
 who the hath given himselfe, o^v us to rayne, & to govⁿe us.
 Lett all o^r harte reioyce together, and lett us all lifte up o^r
 voyce, on of us with another.

G R O C E R S' B O O K,

Folio 34.

Assembly of y^e Company of Grocers, holden at y^e Black Fryers, 8 May, 1534, chosen,

for Alderman of y^e Company, Mr. Rob^t. Greene, & 2 Wardens, 2 Assisters, 4 Surveyors of y^e Pageant, 1 Bedell. An assessment of 22^s. 10^d. made on y^e Company, whereof paid for Nayles, 9½^d.; for forlock^t, wyer, whypcord, & marham, 14½^d.; Sope to grese y^e Wheles, 1^d.; Aples & Fyggs, 4^d.; Oryngys, 10^d.; 3^{lb} Dat^t, 1^s.; 1st Almonds, 3^d.; Fumygaçons, 6^d.

It., a new Heer, w^t a crown for y^e Serpent, 6^d. It., to S^r. Stephyn Prowet* for makynge of a newe ballet, 12^d.

It., 3 payer of glovys for Adam, Eve, & y^e Angelle, 3^d.

It., for mendyng of y^e Gryffyn & off y^e Father's Glovys, 10^d.

It., for a psent govyn for y^e borowyng of y^e Organs, 4^d.

It., to Jeffrey Tybnam playeng y^e Father, 16^d.

It., to Mr. Leman's servant playing Adam, 6^d.

It., to Frances Fygot playing Eve, 4^d.

It., to Tho. Wolffe playeng y^e Angelle, 4^d.

It., to Edm^d. Thurston playeng y^e Serpent, 4^d.

It., to Jno. Bakyn playeng at y^e Organs, 6^d.

other repairs of y^e Pageant, 8^d.

It., to 4 men for ther labow^{rs}, wayghtyng upon y^e Pageant w^t Lewers, 16^d.

It., for a Horse, 12^d.

It., for ½ a Barell of Bere, 10^d.

It., for brede, beffe, vele, motton, & othyr vytalls, w^t y^e dressyng, 4^s. 6^d.

House ferme for y^e Pageant, 2^s.

It., for beryng of y^e Streñ on Corp. Xⁱ day, 2^d.

It., for y^e Offryng, 5^d.

* Sir Stephen Prewett was seventh Prebend of the College of St. Mary in the Fields in 1536, and one of the Stipendiary Priests of St. Peter Mancroft Church.

1535.

Assembly at y^e Yeldhalle, 7 May, 1535, (elected officers) 20^s. assessed, &c. The Acco^t of y^e Surveyors for all Charges y^t yere, viz., for settyng forthe of y^e Pageant, House ferme for y^e same, Corp. Xⁱ day, & y^e Bedell his Fee, amounts to 17^s. 5^d.

Assembly held at St. Peter's Churche, 18 May, 1536, elected officers. The Charges of y^e Pageant allonly, w^t Corp. Xⁱ day, did amownte to 21^s. Mem., Bedell's Fee, 2^d. House Ferme for y^e Pageant, 2^s.

Assembly holden at Yeldhalle, 27 Aprelle, 1537, elected officers; assessed 28^s., wherof was levyed 26^s., & y^e rest cowd not be gathyrd bycause y^e Pageant went not forth y^t yere.

Item, thys yere y^e Pageant went not at Wytsontyde, howbeit ther went oute in costs in makyngh therof redy, & also yt went that yere in Octobyr in y^e Processyon for y^e Byrthe of Prynce Edward. So y^t y^e charges both tymes dyd amownte to 14^s. 4^d.

Assembly at Black Fryers, 19 May, 1538, elected Officers; a Sesmant, 14^s. Charges, 19^s. 2^d.

Assembly at Guyldhalle, 9 May, 1539, elected Officers. Assmt. 16^s. 6^d.; arrerages, 2 last yeres, 8^s. 6^d. Itm. of both, 25^s. of w^{ch} was levyed by the Surveyors, 19^s. 4^d. Charges this yere, 27^s. 9^d. y^e more bycause they bought that yere newe cokelys & many other thyngs y^t war in dekaye.

Assembly at Guyldhalle, 16 Aprill, 1540, elected Officers. Mr. Nych^s. Sotherton, Aldⁿ. At thys assembly y^e Surveyors toke upon them to set forth y^e Pageant, & to bere all charges of y^e same, to pay y^e Charges on Corp. Xⁱ day, the house ferme of y^e Pageant, & y^e Bedell hys fee, & they to have for these foresayd Charges & for ther Labours, 20^s. 28^s. 6^d. assesd.

Assembly at y^e Yeldhalle, 27 Aprell, 1541, officers elected ;
assessed, 24^s. M^r. Wyll. Rogers, Aldⁿ.

Assembly in St. Andrewes Churche,* 1542. Officers elected ;
assessed, 20^s. 2^d.

Assembly at Com^m Halle, 5 May, 1543, officers elected.
Charges of Pageant & Corp. Xⁱ daye last yere, 23^s. 8^d.;
Assessed now, 24^s. Charges of Pageant, &c., undertooke
for 20^s.

Agreed, y^t every man beyng a Grocer Inrollyd w^tin y^e
Cty of Norwiche shall, y^e Sondaye next aftyr Corp. Xⁱ day,
come to y^e Com^m Halle Chappell, at 9 of y^e Clocke in y^e
forenoone, & there here masse.

[No Assembly for 3 yeres.]

Assembly at Com^m Halle, 6 June, 1546, officers elected.
Bedell to have yerely 3^s. 4^d. For charges of Corp. Xⁱ
daye, &c., for 3 yeres, &c., assesse^d 51^s. 6^d.

Forasmuche as y^e Wardeyns had serchyd thorowe y^e Com-
pany, & had fownde moche varyete of wyghts, & also y^e
weyghts of y^e Guyldhalle to be w^t y^e lytest, agreed y^t one
pfyght pyle shuld be bowght by y^e companye ; and whatso-
ever he be of that Company y^t occupye any other wayghts
after a certayn day not agreeabyll w^t those weyghts, shall be
fynable by y^e dysrecōn of y^e Companye.

10^s. receyved y^e Sonday next after Corpus Xⁱ daye of Hen.
Holden, in p^t of 20^s. given by him to be allowed a Grocer
& one of y^e Company.

Payments, 1546, 38 Hen. 8, on Corpus Xⁱ daye for y^e of-
fryng at y^e Com^m Halle, 4^d.; & to y^e 4 Waights, 1^d.
It., to y^e Surveyor for Dat^c, Almond^c, & pfumes for y^e
Gryffyn, 5^d.

It., to M^r. Will. Rogers & M^r. Edw^d. Woode for y^e Certen
paid ov^r by them, 36 Hen. 8 10^s.

* The nave of the church of the Black Friars, now called St. Andrew's Hall.

It., to M ^r . Aldrich, Ald ⁿ ., for Certen paid ov ^r by him,	37
Hen. 8	10 ^s .
It., p ^d at Mychelmes to y ^e Chamblen for y ^e Certen due this psent yere	5 ^s .
It., gaff in rewarde to M ^r . Kempe* for sayeng evynsong to y ^e Company y ^e Sonday after Hallomes day	2 ^d .

1546.

The 3^d Assembly holden at y^e Comⁱ Halle on Pentecost Sondaye. Ordeyned that y^e too old Wardeyns shall go by themselff & chose 4 men of y^e same Company ther psent, & ther elec^con made & presentyd to y^e Company, that those 4 men shuld by themselff chose 8 more to them. After ther Elec^con made & psentyd to y^e Company, than those 12 shuld go toguether & chose first the Alderman; & then too of y^e rest of y^e hole felloweshyppe, not beyng any of y^e xxiiij aldermen of y^e Cite, to be Wardeyns for y^e yere folowyng. And those 2 Wardeyns newe chosen & y^e 12 before chosen to be callyd y^e Cownsell of y^e Company of y^e Grocers & Raphemen† for y^e yere folowyng.

The Ordynaunces of y^e sayd xxiiij psones for y^e Comonwelthe & good Governaunce of y^e forsayd Fellowshyppe shuld stonde & be obeyed of all y^e sayd Company & Fellowshyppe.

Accordyngly were chosen 4 Aldermen & 8 Comyners, who chose M^r. Wyll. Rogers for ther Alderman; 2 Wardeyns & 2 Surveyor^s for settynge forth y^e Processyon on Corpus Xⁱ day, & for y^e Pageant yf it go forth y^e next yere; & 1 bedell.

Determinyd by y^e sayd Cownsell, w^t consent of all y^e Felloweshyppe present, that all y^e Company of y^e s^d Felloweshyppe, as y^e men, ther wyvys, and all Wydows whos Husbond^c was Inrollyd Grocers, shall, upon y^e Sonday next

* Mr. John Kemp was appointed Chaplain of the Common Hall Chapel immediately it came into the hands of the city, 32 Henry VIII.

† The Raffmen were the Rough Tallow Chandlers.

after y^e Fest of Corps Xⁱ next comyng, come to y^e Com^m Halle Chappell and ther here Masse, and at y^e sayde masse ev^y pson shall offer an haltpeny; and whan masse ys done, as many as be of substuns & hablyte shall dyne at y^e s^d Com^m Halle; & ev^y man shall paye for hymselff 8^d., & for his wyfe 4^d., & ev^y wydow 6^d.; & after dyner ys don, y^t no man shall depte till suche tyme as y^e Company have chosen newe Surveyor^s or Purveyor^s of y^e sayd dyner for ye next yere followyng upon payn of xii^d., and this order to be kept yerely for ever.

Agreed y^t yerely too of y^e eldest Aldermen shuld kepe y^e sayd Grocers' Dyner at y^e Com^m Halle y^e Sonday next after Corp⁹ Xⁱ day, as longe as any Alderman be of y^e Company y^t have not kept yt, & after y^t to y^e eldest comyners. At w^{ch} day wer chosen by y^e forsayd 12 psons to kepe y^e dyner thys yere, M^r. Wyll. Rogers & M^r. Edm^d. Wood, Surveyor^s of y^e Dyner.

At 4th Assembly then holden after dyner, upon y^e Sonday next after y^e Fest of Corp. Xⁱ, chosen for y^e yere followyng, M^r. Tho^s. Grewe, M^r. John Homerston, Surveyor^s of y^e Dyner. 4th Assembly to be held yerely. (made void 1548.)

1547.

Dyner at y^e Com^m Halle, 12 June, 1547.

P^d on Corp. Xⁱ day, for y^e offryng at y^e Com^m Halle at y^e Meyer's Guyl^d, 4^d.; & to y^e 4 Waights, 1^d.; & pfumes for y^e Gryffyn, 3^d. P^d Sonday next after Corp. Xⁱ day, to S^r. Kemp, prest of y^e Com^m Halle, for certen this yere, 5^s. P^d Howse ferme for y^e Pageant, 2^s.

1556.

Payd for a y ^d & $\frac{1}{2}$ of yellow Buckram, to make a Cote for y ^e Pendon Bearer	16 ^d .
for makynge & payntyng y ^e sayde Cote	12 ^d .
for payntyng and gyldynge y ^e Gryffon	3 ^s . 4 ^d .

for y ^e hyer of a hear & Crowne for y ^e Angell, and for caryeng of y ^e Gryffon	4 ^d .
for pfumys for y ^e Pcession	20 ^d .
p ^d him that bare y ^e Pendon	2 ^d .
p ^d for collerd thryde to bynde y ^e flowers	2 ^d .
for a Splytter y ^t shadowed y ^e Gryffon	3 ^d .
for y ^e dynners of y ^e angell & Pendon berer	12 ^d .
total, 9 ^s . 3 ^d .	

1557.

Payde upon Corp ⁹ X ⁱ daye for settynge forth y ^e Procession :	
P ^d for y ^e hyer of an Angell's Cote, & for 2 Crownys & hearis to bearis to beare y ^e Arms	8 ^d .
P ^d for a Crowne & heare to him that bare y ^e Gryffon	2 ^d .
P ^d to 3 Lad ^c y ^t bare ye Gryffon, Arms, & Grocery	4 ^d .
P ^d for beryng y ^e Pendon	2 ^d .
P ^d for 6 oz. of pfume	2 ^s .
for oreng ^c , fygc ^c , allmond ^c , dat ^c , Reysens, preumes, & Aples to garnish y ^e tre w th	10 ^d .
for collerd thryd to bynd y ^e flowers	2 ^d .
for theyr brekfast ^c y ^t daye	8 ^d .

1558.

P ^d on Corp ⁹ X ⁱ day at y ^e Offryng, 4 ^d .; & to y ^e Wayghts, 2 ^d	6 ^d .
for hier of 1 angell's Cote, 2 Crowns, & 1 heare . . .	8 ^d .
to 3 lad ^c ut sup ⁹	4 ^d .
for apples, &c., ut sup ⁹ , 12 ^d .; & Pendon Berer, 2 ^d .	14 ^d .
Pfumes, 2 ^s . 4 ^d . Itm., for Notmygg ^c , Clows, Mac ^c , & gylden of sertayne poses, & for colard thryd	14 ^d .
sm. 6 ^s . 2 ^d .	

1559. No Solemnite.

1563.

Assembly, 13 May, 1563. It was enquiryrd by Mr. Aldriche for y^e Provysyon of y^e Pageant to be preparyd ageynst

y^e daye of M^r. Davy his takyng of his charge of y^e Mayrall-tye. And yt ys agreyd by y^e consent of y^e Companye then present, y^t y^e surveyor^{rs} shall furnysh y^e same & prepare a devyce ageynst y^e day. Charge was 6^s. 8^d.

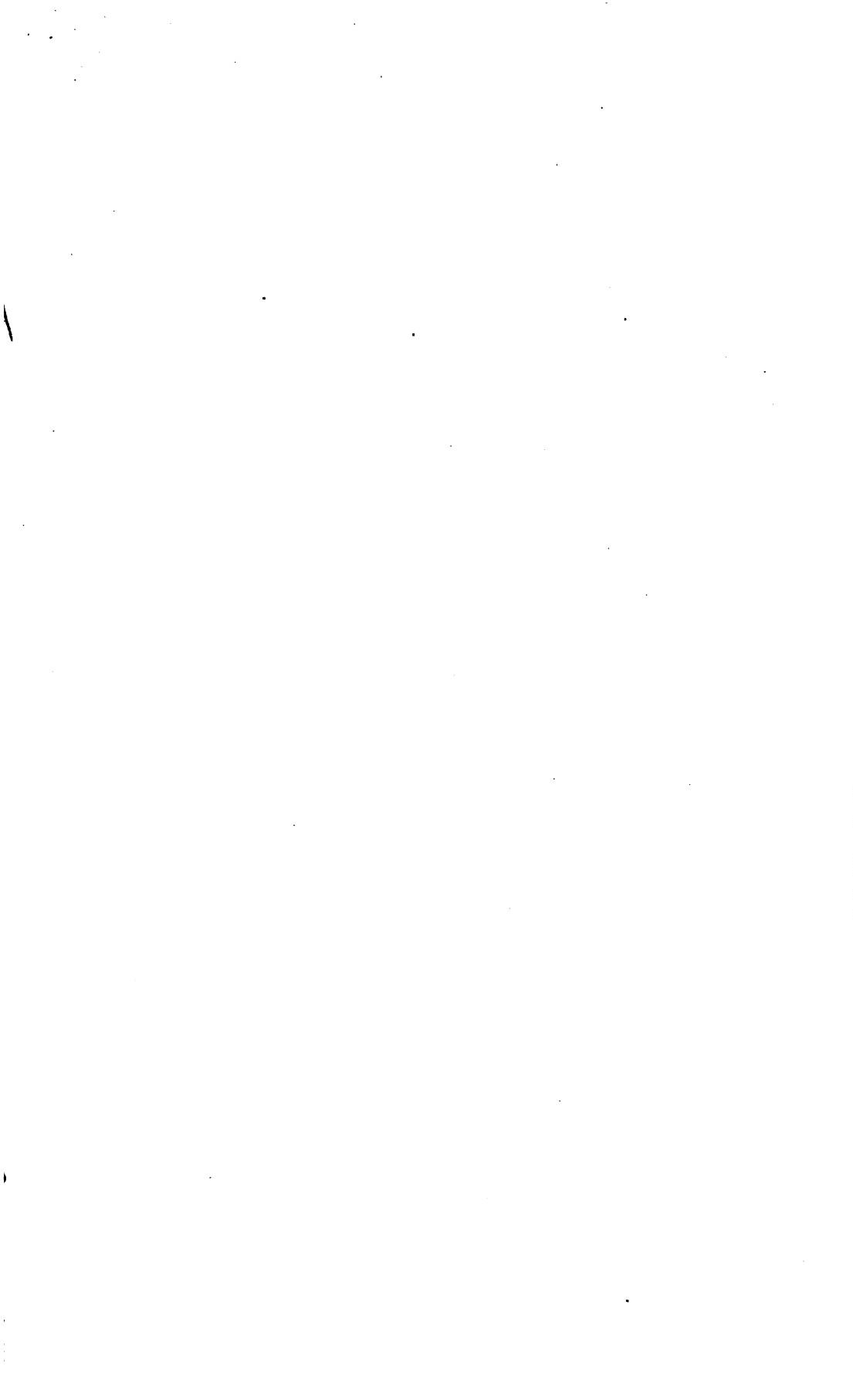
*Inventory of y^e p'ticulars appartaynyng to y^e Company of
y^e Grocers. A. D. 1565.*

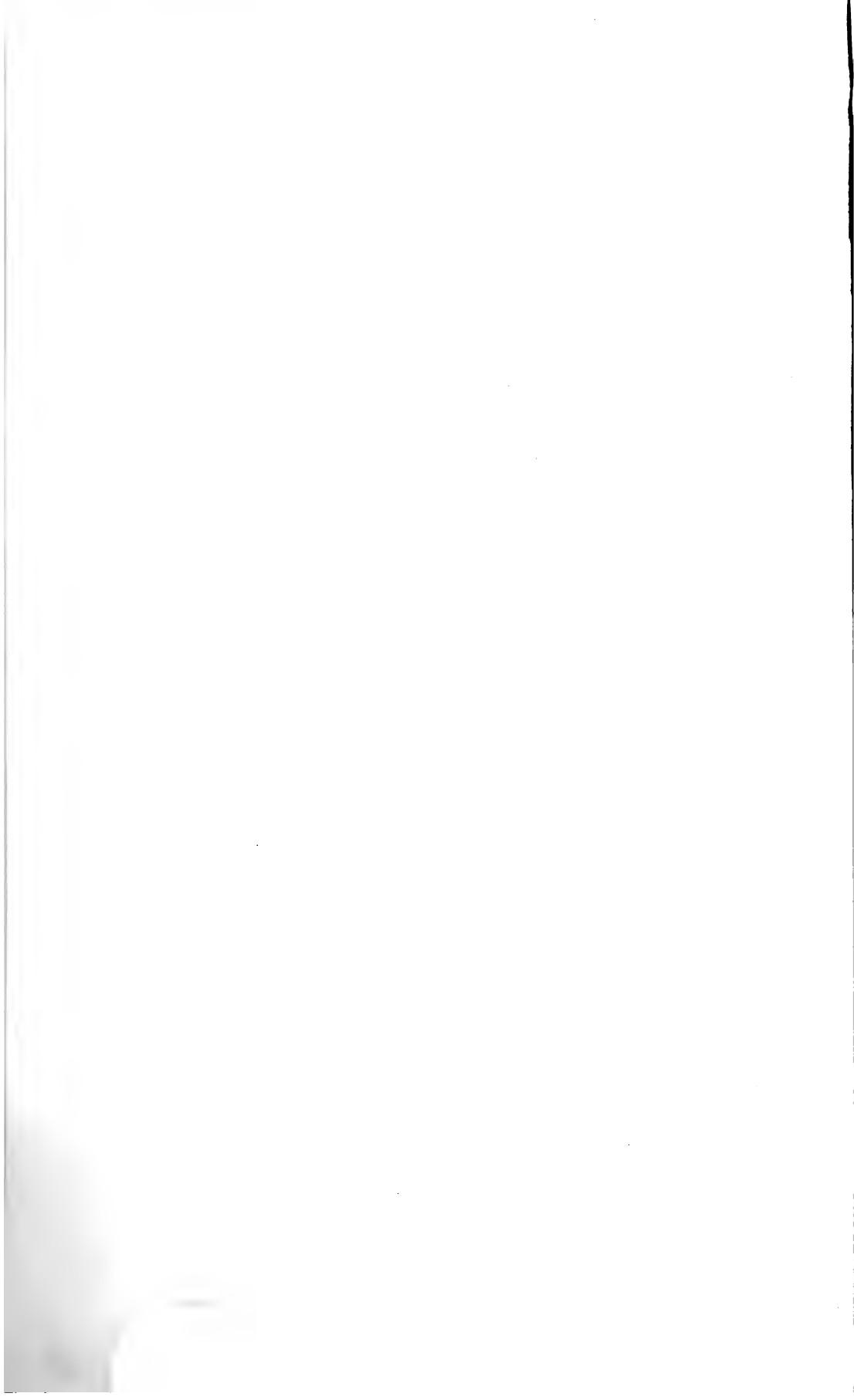
- A Pageant, y^t is to saye, a Howse of Waynskott paynted & buylded on a Carte w^t fowre whelys.
 - A square topp to sett over y^e sayde Howse.
 - a Gryffon, gylte, w^t a fane to sett on y^e sayde toppe.
 - a bygger Iron fane to sett on y^e ende of y^e Pageante.
 - iiij xx iij [83] small Fanes belongyng to y^e same Pageante.
 - A Rybbe colleryd Red.
 - a cote & hosen w^t a bagg & capp for dolo^r, steyned.
 - 2 cotes & a payre hosen for Eve, stayned.
 - A cote & hosen for Adam, Steyned.
 - A Cote w^t hosen & tayle for y^e serpente, steyned, w^t a w^t heare.
 - A Cote of yellow buckram w^t y^e Grocers' arms for y^e Pendon bearer.
 - An Angell's Cote & over hoses of Apis Skynns.
 - 3 paynted clothes to hang abowte y^e Pageant.
 - a face & heare for y^e Father.
 - 2 hearys for Adam & Eve.
 - 4 head stallis of brode Inkle wth knopps & tassells.
 - 6 Horsse Clothes, stayned, w^t knopps & tassells.
 - Item, Weights, &c.
-

Item, yt is to be noted that forasmuch as for y^e space of 8 yeris ther was neyther Sembleye nor metynge, in y^e meane season ye Pageante remaynyng 6 yeris in y^e Gate howse of M^r. John Sotherton, of London, untyll y^e ferme came to 20^s; and bycaus y^e Surveyors in M^r. Sotherton's tyme wold not dysburs ani moni therfor, y^e Pageante was sett oute in y^e Strete & so remayned at y^e Black fryers brydge in open strete, when bothe yt was so weather beaten, y^t y^e cheife pte was rotton; wherupon M^r. John Aldrich, then Maior y^e yer 1570, together w^t M^r. Tho. Whall, Alderman, offred yt to y^e Company to sell for y^e some of 20^s., and when no pson wold buy yt for y^t price and y^t yt styl remayned, & nowe one pece therof rent of & nowe another as was lyke all to come to nothinge, Nicholas Sotherton, then offycer to M^r. Maior, was requested to take y^t in peces for y^e dept dewe to hym for y^e seyd howse ferm therof for 6 yeris aforesayde, at 3^s. 4^d. a yere, who accordinglye dyd take downe y^e same & howsed yt accordinglye.

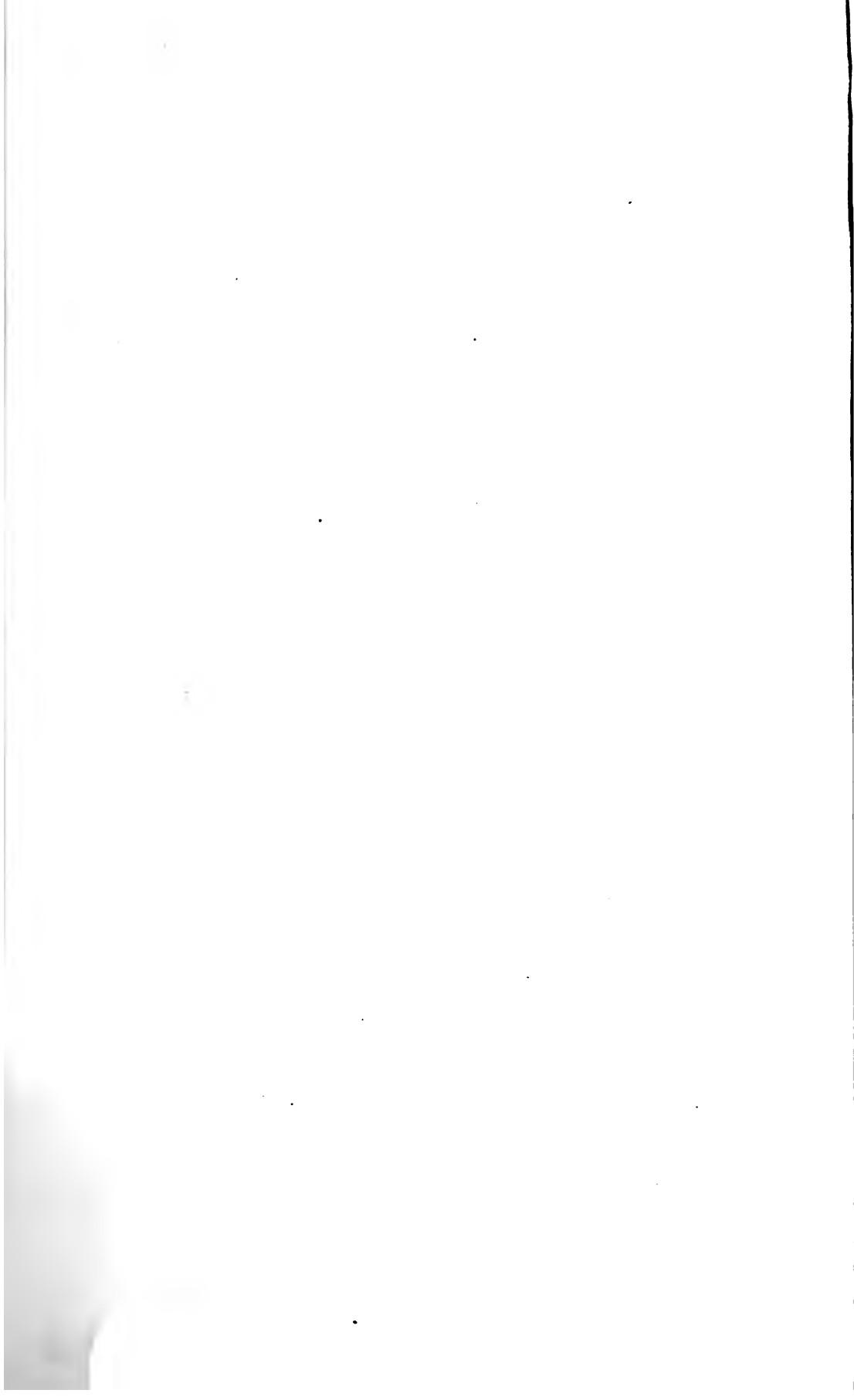
Grocers, 1534—81, 1664—55.



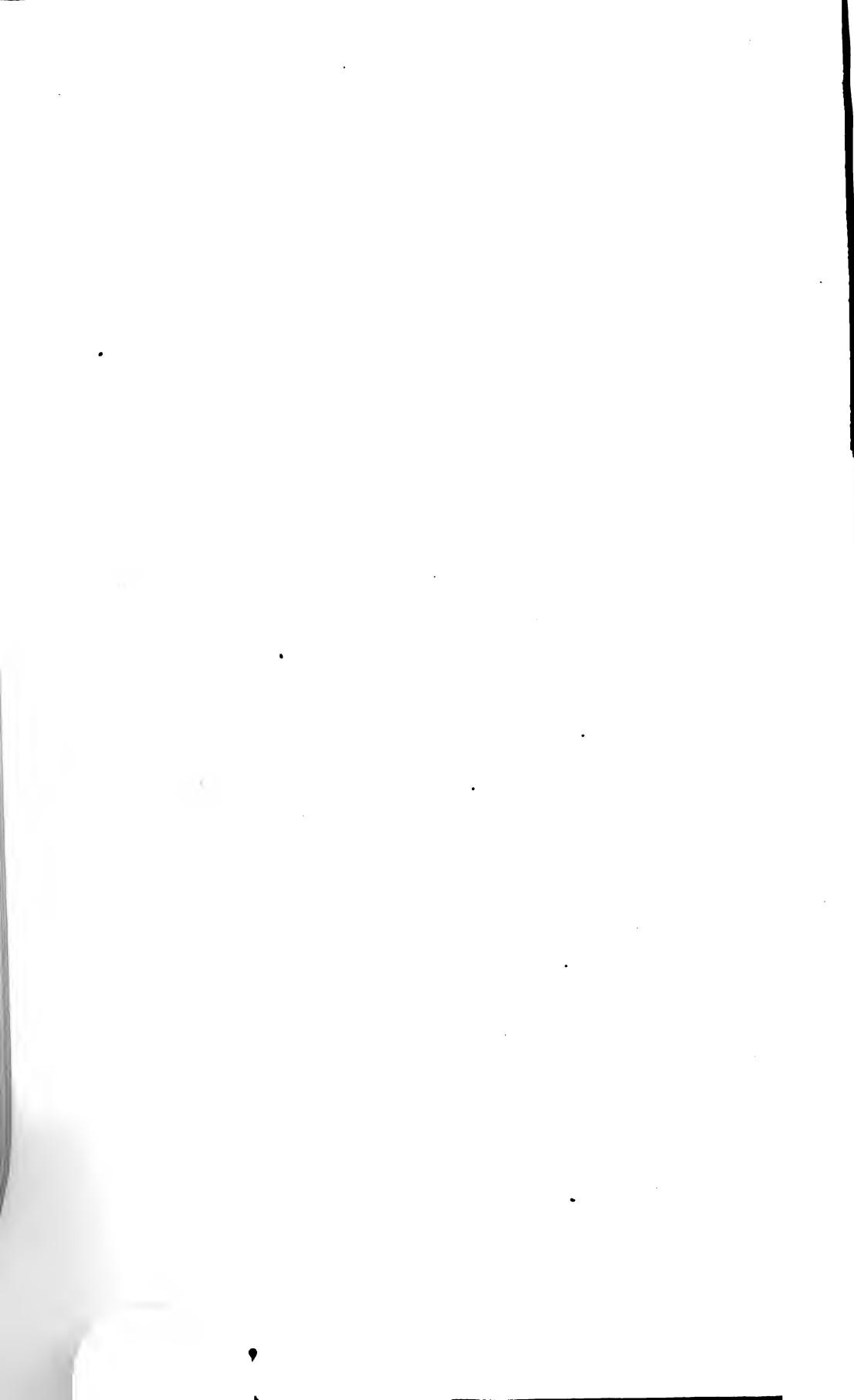




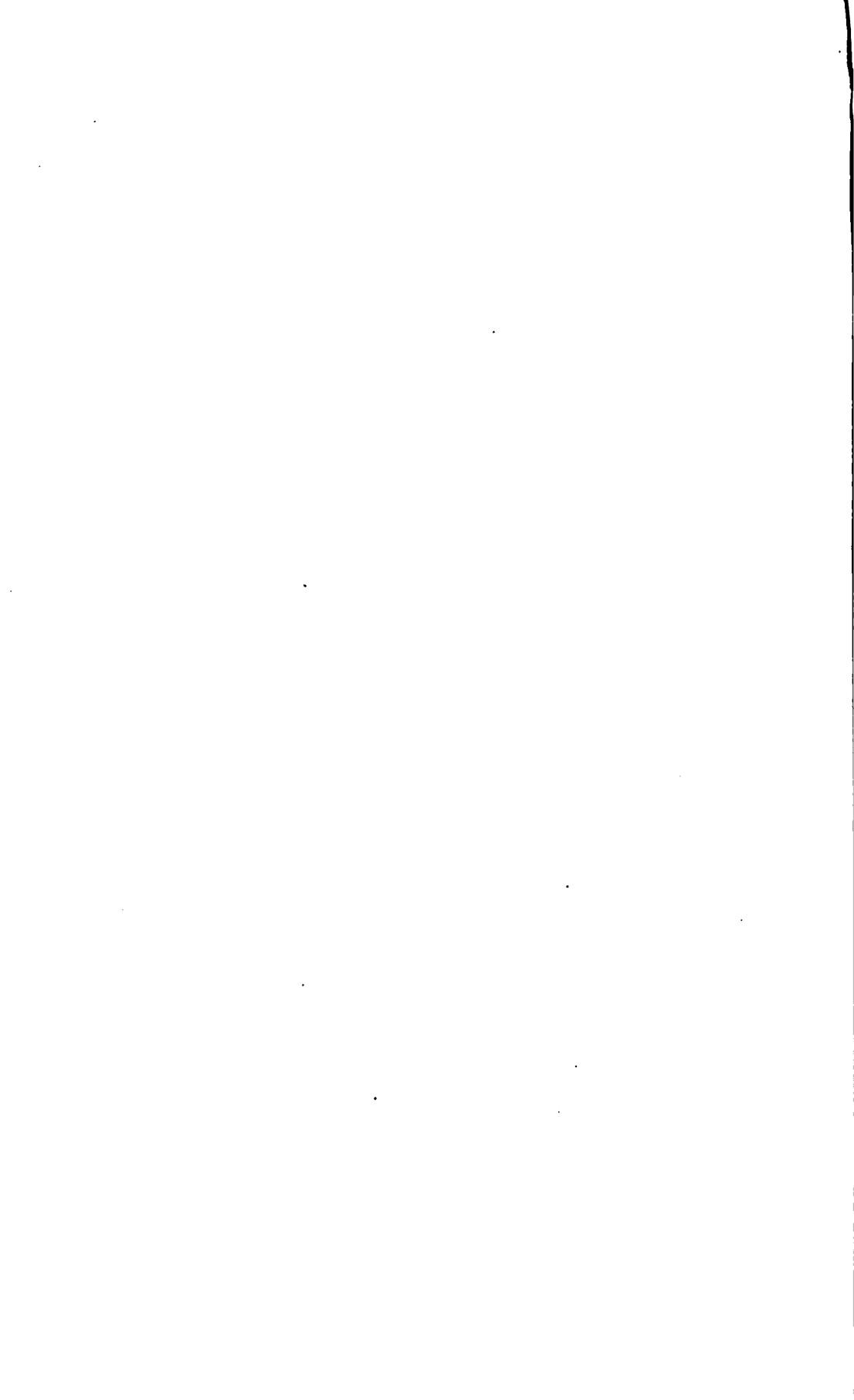


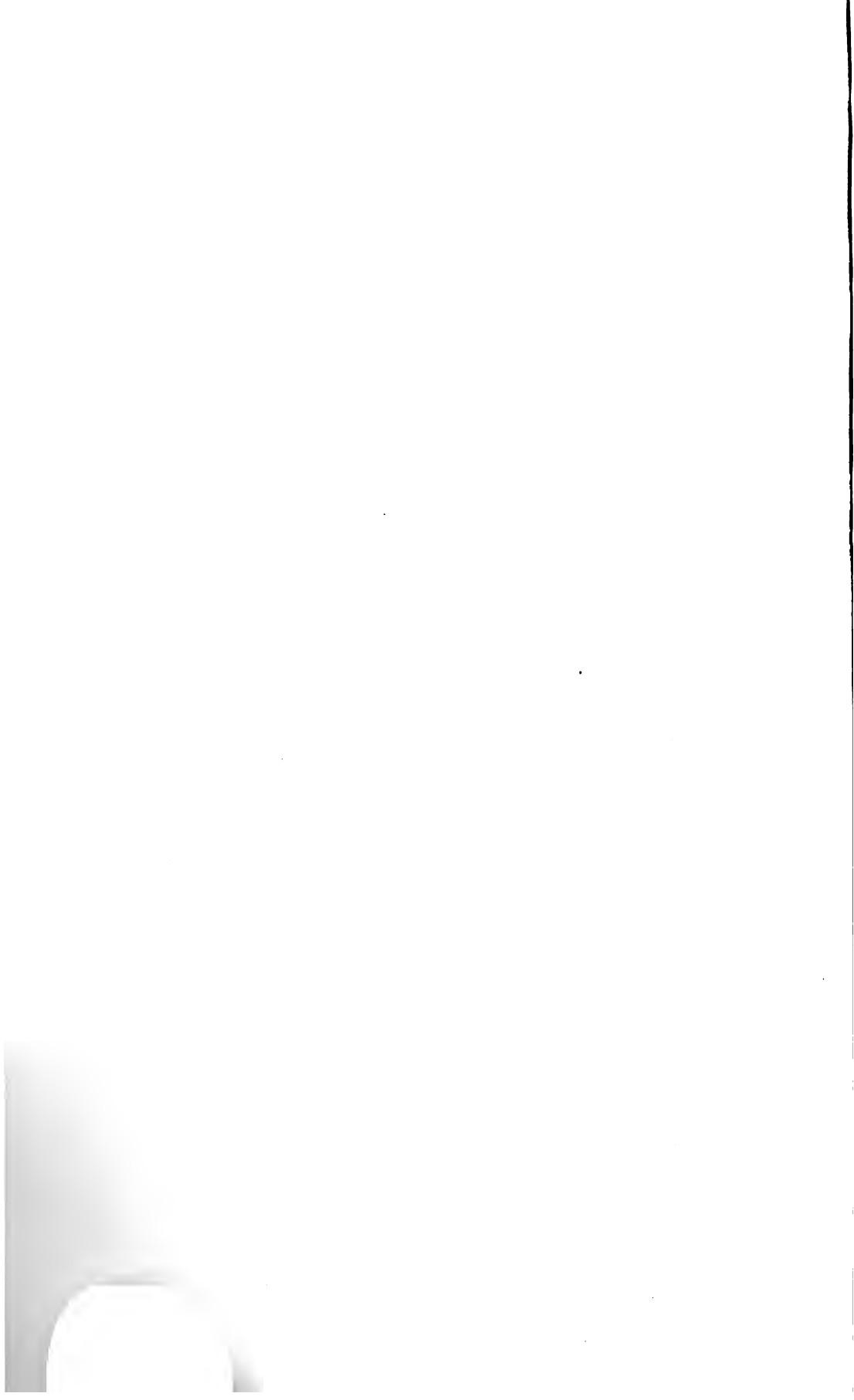






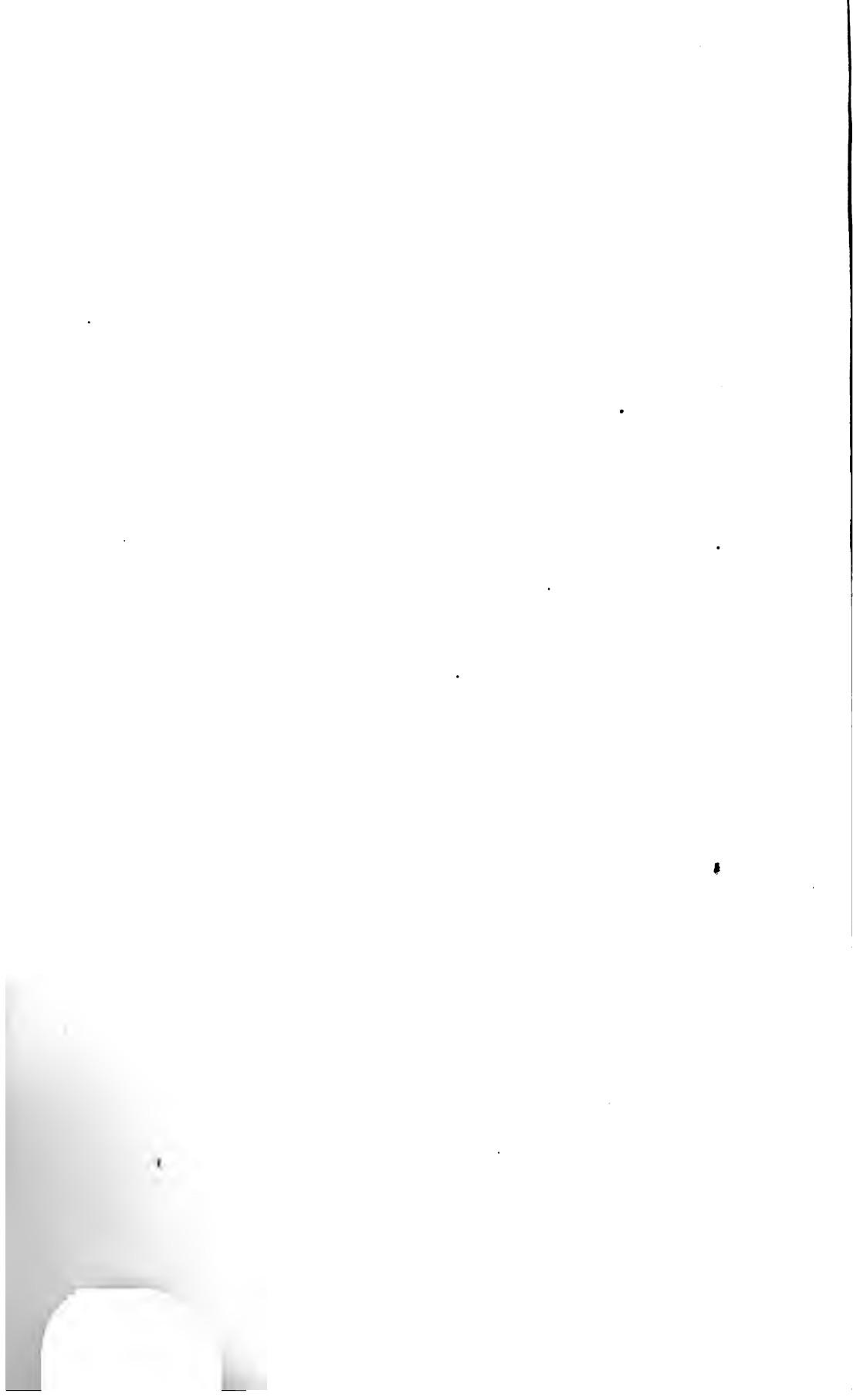
























~~W. O. B.~~
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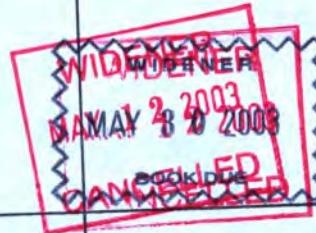


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